

S/N Unknown

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Karlheinz Haubennestel et al.

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Title: BRANCHED POLYMERS CONTAINING IMIDAZOLE GROUPS AND THE PRODUCTION AND USE THEREOF

(Continuation under 37 CFR 1.53(b) of U.S. Application SN 09/640,221, filed August 16, 2000)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 9, 10 and 11 without prejudice.

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect cancellation of claims 9, 10 and 11, amendment of previously pending claims 3, 4, 5 and 8, and addition of new claims 12-16. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

1. Branched polymer, characterised in that it is derived from the following mixture of monomers:

- (A) 50 to 93 wt.% of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer,
- (B) 2 to 25 wt.% of at least one ethylenically unsaturated macromonomer with a molecular weight of 1,000 to 20,000 and
- (C) 5 to 25 wt.% of at least one polymerisable imidazole derivative,

wherein components (A), (B) and (C) together make up 100 wt.%, the polymer possesses a molecular weight of 15,000 to 100,000 and is optionally present in the form of a salt.

2. [AMENDED] Branched polymer according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is present in a quantity of 5 to 15 wt.% and component (C) in a quantity of 10 to 20 wt.%.